

T-959  
Parsons House  
Oxford  
Private

c. 1880

Simply known as the Parsons house due to the long-term ownership of this property by that family, this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling was erected around 1880. Similar to 210 North Morris, also erected by the Parsons family, this side hall/double pile dwelling survives with many of its original features that have been blended with early to mid twentieth century modifications. A photograph of the house taken in the early 1890s reveals a Victorian porch on the front and a single story bay window to the south. The bay window was raised to a two-story height sometime after the image was taken and the front porch was simplified with the insertion of square columns in lieu of turned posts and sawn bracket decoration. Nevertheless the house retains its essential late 19th century character and contributes to the historic nature of North Morris Street.

Construction of this dwelling occurred around the property was sold by Samuel Stewart to Susan A. Parsons. She is listed in the 1880 United States census in her 54th year with her five children. Edward, a 23-year old merchant, is listed on the deed with his mother. The property descended through the Parsons family until 1979.

## MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Parsons House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: T-959

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. T-959

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Parsons House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 202 North Morris Street    not for publicationcity, town Oxford    vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

### 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture <u>  </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial <u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational <u>X</u> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment <u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government <u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial <u>  </u> transportation
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military <u>  </u> other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David N. and Margueritte S. Webster

street &amp; number 202 North Morris Street telephone no.:

city, town Oxford state and zip code MD 21654

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 564  
liber 807

street &amp; number Talbot County Courthouse folio 235

city, town Easton state MD 21601

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. T-959

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Parsons house is located at 202 North Morris Street in the center of Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay side hall/double-pile frame house faces west with the low pitched hip roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1880, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported on a low brick foundation and the exterior is clad with a layer of wood shingles. The hip roof is sheathed with seamed tin. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing that has been extended on the south side with an enclosed porch. A single-story modern addition is attached to the east end of the kitchen wing.

The west (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows to the south. A six-panel front door is framed by a four-light transom and three-light sidelights. The adjacent two-over-two sash windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Sheltering the entire first floor is an early 20th century square column porch. The second floor is lighted by three unevenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The base of the roof is enclosed with a boxed cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings. Rising through the center of the house is a pair of internal brick chimneys.

The south side of the house is two bays deep with the east bay defined by a two-story polygonal bay window filled with two-over-two sash windows on the south side and narrower single-pane sash windows to each side. The western bay is marked by two-over-two sash windows on each floor.

The east (rear) elevation of the main block is largely covered by the two-story dining room and kitchen wing, which is extended on its south side by a single-story enclosed shed porch.

Inside, the house is divided into side hall/double-pile plan. The late 19th century staircase retains a heavily turned mahogany newel post that is distinguished by an octagonal taper to the center section. A molded handrail is supported by a series of turned balusters. The stringer is plain. Trimming the perimeter of the room is a ogee molded baseboard. Bulls-eye block surrounds typical of the late 19th century trim the door and window openings.

The double parlors have been reworked with the replacement of the Victorian mantels and the insertion of a pair of Tuscan columns between the two rooms. Neo-federal mantels decorate the fireplaces.

The rear wing has been reworked. The original moldings have been largely replaced by mid 20th century woodwork.

The second floor retains bulls-eye block surrounds that frame four-panel doors.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. T-959

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

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Construction of this dwelling occurred around the property was sold by Samuel Stewart to Susan A. Parsons.<sup>1</sup> She is listed in the 1880 United States census in her 54th year with her five children.<sup>2</sup> Edward, a 23-year old merchant, is listed on the deed with his mother. The property descended through the Parsons family until 1979.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Talbot County Land Record, JFT 89/494, 1 January 1880.

<sup>2</sup> Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Talbot County, transcribed by Helen E. Seymour, 1997, p. 117.

<sup>3</sup> Talbot County Land Record, JTB 532/171, 21 March 1979.



T-959  
Parsons House  
202 North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 564

807/235                      Margueritte S. Webster  
                                    Steven H. Schimpff

to

7/24/1995                    Margueritte S. Webster  
                                    David N. Webster

Parcel 1

JTB 532/171                Ernest M. Thompson, Personal representative of  
                                    the Estate of Eunice P. Highley (died 3/29/1977)

to

3/21/1979                    Margueritte S. Webster  
                                    Theodore E. Schimpff  
                                    Steven H. Schimpff

JTB 337/531                T. Hughlett Henry, widower

to

3/18/1957                    Margaret E. Parsons  
                                    Eunice P. Highley

337/529                      Margaret E. Parsons, widow

to

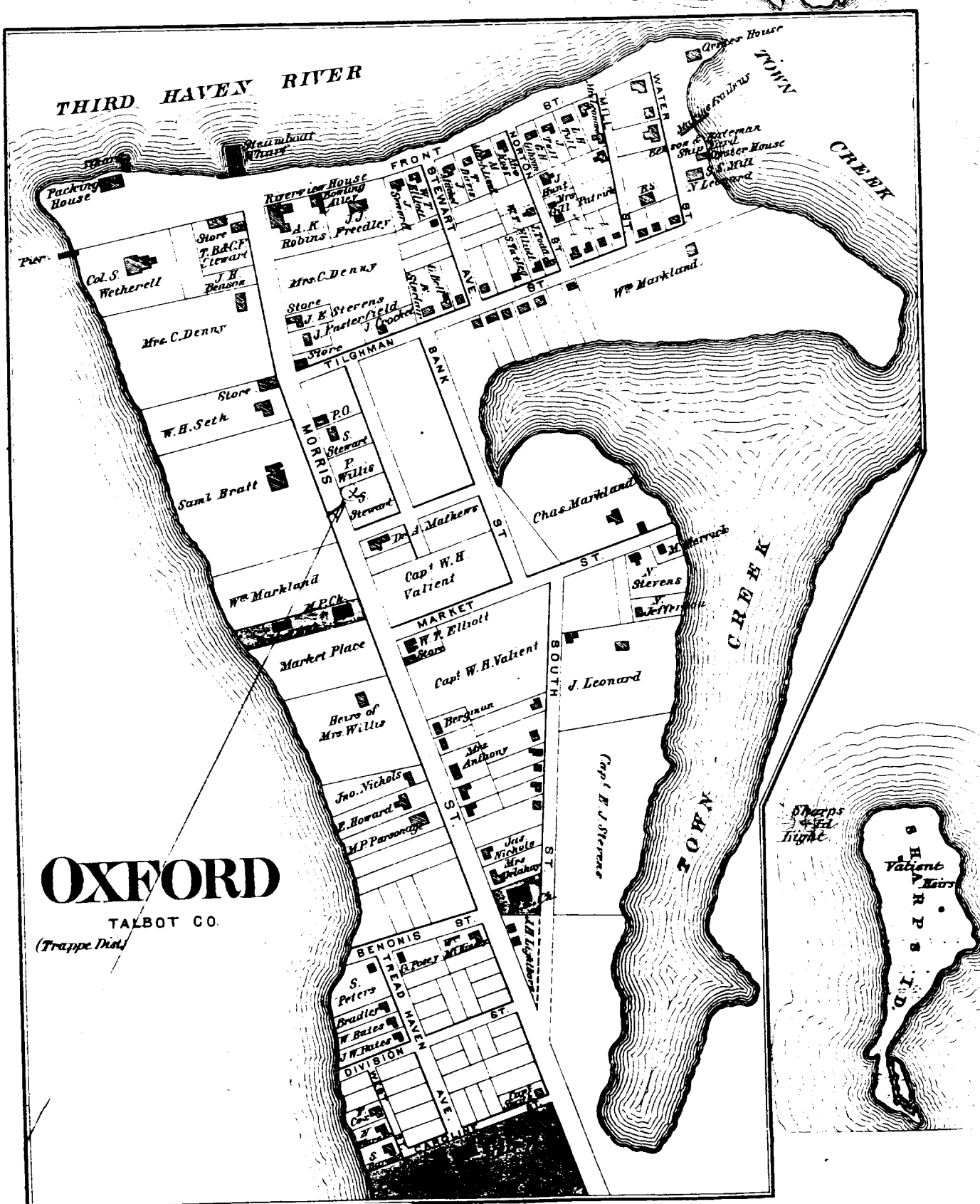
3/18/1957                    T. Hughlett Henry

T-959  
Parsons House  
202 North Morris Street  
Oxford, Talbot County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

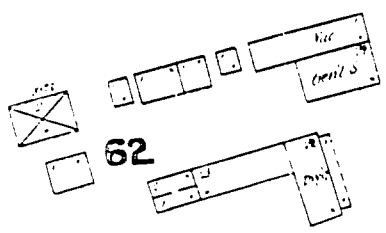
CBL 215/79	Ida V. Stevens
	to
7/16/1928	Margaret E. Parsons Edward T. Parsons
120/24	Ormond Hammond, trustee
	to
10/18/1893	Margaret E. Parsons, wife of Edward T. Parsons
	\$350
TH 119/300	Samuel Stewart
	to
8/7/1893	Ormond Hammond
Lease JFT 89/494	Samuel Stewart
	to
1/1/1880	Susan A. Parsons Edward T. Parsons



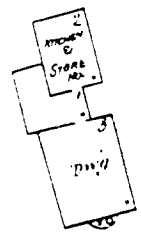


T-959  
Parsons House

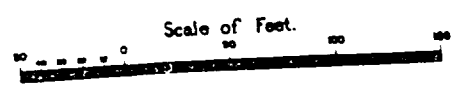
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877



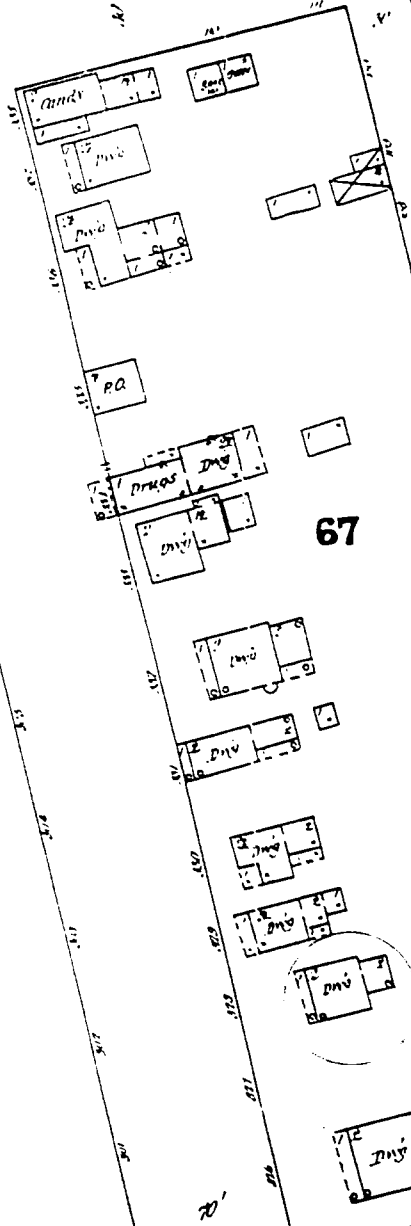
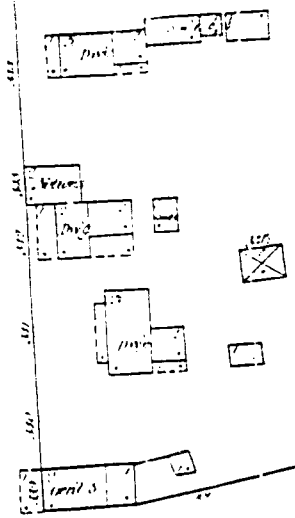
62



T-959  
Parsons House  
Sanborn Insurance Map  
1891



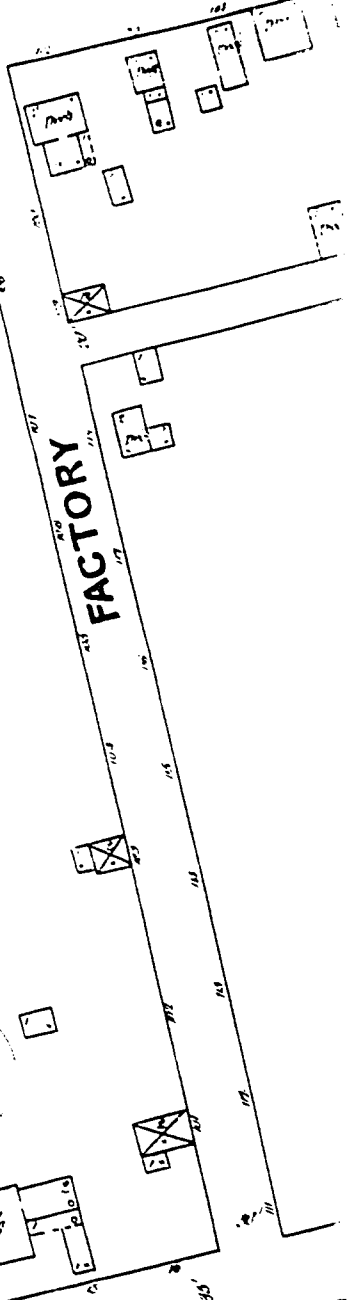
MORRIS



67

FACTORY

TILMAN



SEE

SHEET

1891



T-959  
Parsons House  
Oxford, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

Benon  
Point



T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OXFORD, TAYLOR CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

5/98, Paul Tamm, PHOTOGRAPHIC

REC./MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 5



T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OXFORD, TARRANT CO., MD.

WEST ELEVATION OF PORCH

5/98, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPH

NEE. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 5





T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OVERMAN, TALBOT COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION OF PORCH

5/98, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

7 of 5



T. 959

PARSONS HOUSE

BYRON, TARRANT CO., TEX

SEITE ELEVATION

5/99, JAMES TARRANT, PHOTOGRAPH

N.E. 1/4, 105TH ST. TARRANT

4 or 5



T-959

PARSONS HOUSE

OXFORD, TARRANT CO., MA

SOUTH ELEVATION

5/98, PAUL TARRANT PHOTOGRAPH

NEG/NO HISTORICAL PHOTO

9 OF 5